

International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico United States Section

CANALIZATION AND PROGRAMMATIC EIS UPDATE



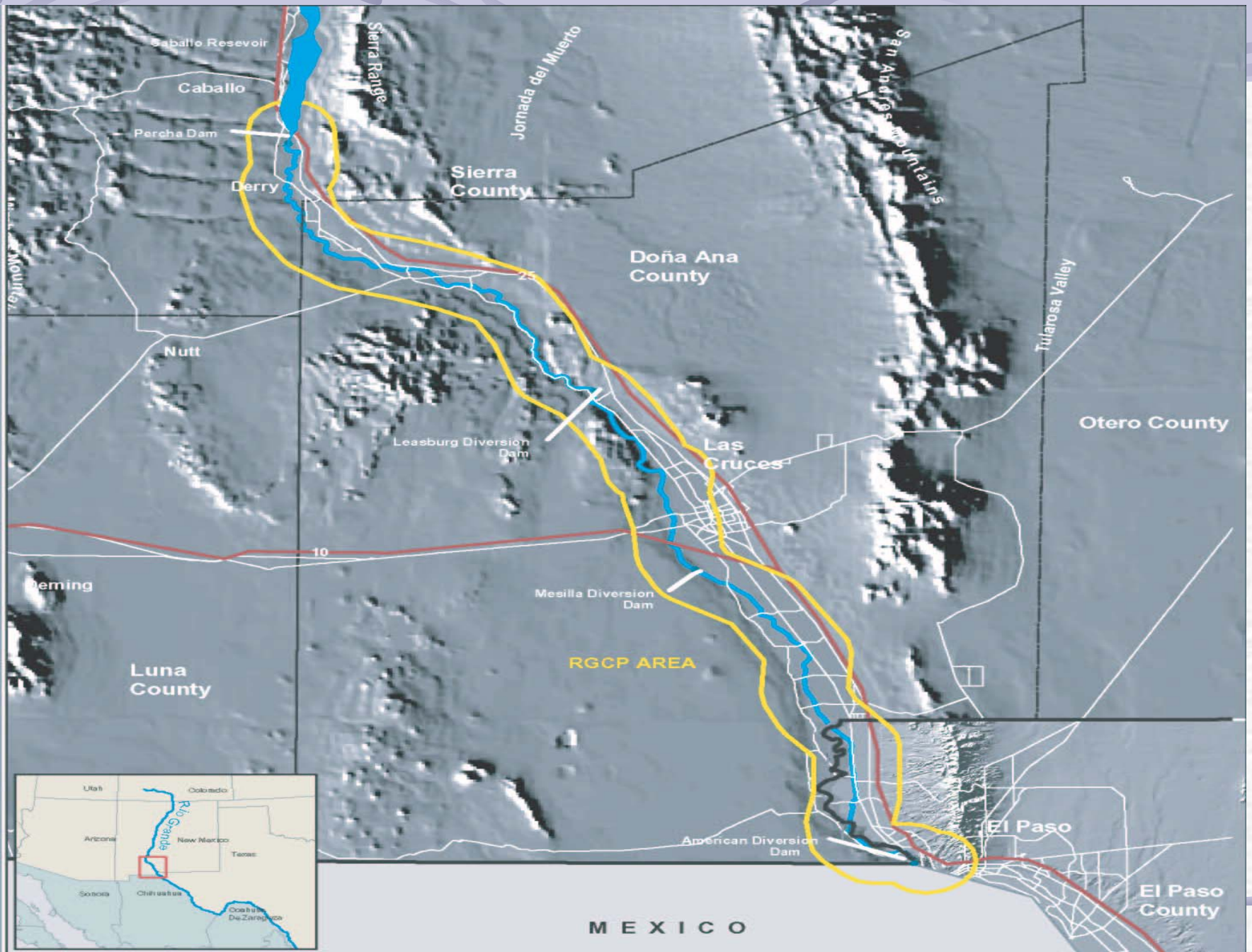
CITIZENS' FORUM
FEBRUARY 2006



Canalization Project EIS

Purpose and Need

- Canalization Project EIS evaluated long-term river management alternatives
- Accomplish flood control, water delivery, and operation and maintenance activities in a manner that would enhance or restore the riparian ecosystem



Management Category	No Action Alternative	Flood Control Improvement Alternative	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE Integrated USIBWC Land Management	Targetted River Restoration Alternative
Levee System Management	Routine levee and road maintenance	No Change	No Change	No Change
	N/A	Levee System Improvements	Levee System Improvements	Levee System Improvements
Floodway Management	Unmodified grazing leases	Modified leases for erosion control (3,552 ac)	Modified leases for erosion control (3,552 ac)	Modified leases for erosion control (3,493 ac)
	Continue Seasonal mowing (4,657 ac)	No Change	Continued mowing (2,674 ac)	Continued mowing (2,223 ac)
			Modified grassland management (1,641 ac)	Modified grassland management (1,641 ac)
			Native vegetation planting (223 ac)	Native vegetation planting (189 ac)
			Stream bank Reconfiguration (127 ac)	Seasonal peak flows / bank preparation (516 ac)
	N/A	N/A	N/A	Voluntary conservation easements (1,618 ac)
Channel and Irrigation Facilities Management	Debris removal and channel protection	No Change	No Change	No Change
	American Dam and irrigation structures maintenance	No Change	No Change	No Change
	N/A	N/A	N/A	Reopening of six former meanders (147 ac)
Sediment Management	NRCS sediment dam maintenance	No Change	No Change	No Change
	Sediment removal from arroyos / mitigation actions	No Change	No Change	Modified arroyo Dredging for aquatic habitat (12 arroyos)
	Disposal from dredging channel within ROW*	Disposal mainly outside ROW*	Disposal mainly outside ROW*	Disposal mainly outside ROW*
	N/A	N/A	Disposal from environmental measure excavation inside ROW*	Disposal from environmental measure excavation inside ROW*



Canalization EIS Status

Summary

- Final EIS issued July 9, 2004
- Record of Decision (ROD) was expected August 9, 2004
- Governor Richardson, Senator Bingaman, and Stakeholder letters requested delay in signing the ROD



Canalization EIS Status

- ROD delayed pending further investigations and stakeholder collaboration
- April 2005 – EBID, WWF, and ED proposal:
 - Water-based Safe Harbor Agreement
 - River restoration
 - Habitat studies
 - Incorporating FLO-2D



Canalization EIS Status

Technical Investigations

- ID the impediments to habitat enhancement
- ID water right safeguards - Water Based Safe Harbor Agreements
- Within above framework develop a strategy for habitat restoration



Canalization EIS Status

- ✓ EIS lifespan is 5 years (CEQ guidance)
 - ROD must be issued by July 2009
- ✓ Investigations to be completed in the next 2 years
- ✓ ROD anticipated by 2008



Flood Control Projects Programmatic EIS

- ☛ Notice of Intent to Prepare PEIS - December 2004
- ☛ Scoping meetings – January 2005
- ☛ Studies Completed
 - Cultural Resources Survey Report – June 2005
 - Biological Resources Survey Report – August 2005



Programmatic EIS

☛ Rio Grande Flood Control Projects

- Canalization Project – Percha Dam to American Dam
- Rectification Project – El Paso to Fort Quitman
- Presidio-Ojinaga Project
- Lower Rio Grande Project – from Peñitas to the Gulf of Mexico

☛ Tijuana River Flood Control Project (San Diego, California)



Programmatic EIS

- PEIS Project cancelled – June 2005
- USIBWC recognizes need for Programmatic Environmental Document
 - Re-initiate work Spring 2006
 - Canalization Project not included
 - Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project scope reduced



QUESTIONS?